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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A brass alloy, consisting, by weight, essentially of:

from 5% to 25% of zinc;
from 0.3% to 2% nickel;
from 0.15% to 1% tin;
from 0.03% to 0.35% phosphorous with a nickel to phosphorous weight ratio, Ni:P, of from 3.5:1 to 7.5:1; and
less than 0.1%, each, of silicon and beryllium; and,
the balance copper and inevitable impurities, said brass alloy having an electrical conductivity in excess of 25% IACS and having sufficient resistance to stress relaxation that an electrical connector formed from the alloy has a 3,000 hom operating life at 125° C.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The brass alloy of claim 1 wherein said nickel and said phosphorous are present in an amount effective to provide a nickel:phosphorous weight ratio of about 5:1.
4. (Previously Presented) The brass alloy of claim 1 further including between 0.07% and 0.12% of iron.
5. (Previously Presented) The brass alloy of claim 1 further including from about 2 ppm to about 50 ppm of oxygen, sulfur, carbon or a mixture thereof.
6. (Previously Presented) The copper alloy of claim 1 wherein said zinc is present in an amount of from 8% to 25%.

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7. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 3 wherein said nickel is present in an amount of from 0.3% to 1%.

8. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 7 wherein said tin is present in an amount of from 0.2% to 0.7%.

9. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 8 wherein said phosphorous is present in an amount of from 0.05% to 0.18%.

10. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 6 wherein said tin is present in an amount of from 0.2% to 0.7%.

11. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 10 wherein said zinc content is about 10.2%, said nickel content is about 0.50%, said tin content is about 0.30% and said phosphorous content is about 0.10%.

12. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 10 wherein said zinc content is about 19.8%, said nickel content is about 0.50%, said tin content is about 0.51% and said phosphorous content is about 0.11%.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)